



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **New York ICE Arrests Fugitive Sex Offender**

Saldarriaga - ESCOBAR previously convicted of sexual assault

NEW YORK, NY - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in New York arrested a fugitive sex offender, Hector de Jesus Saldarriaga-Escobar, yesterday. Escobar, who is 66 years old, was arrested at his home without incident. He is being detained by ICE while being processed for removal from the United States.

In 1994, Escobar was convicted for Sexual Assault of an individual under 11 years of age. He received a sentence of six months in prison and five years probation for that crime.

New York Acting Field Operations Director Christopher Shanahan congratulated his officers for their diligence and said, "Our message is clear. There is no room for fugitive alien sex offenders in this country. Our Fugitive Operations Team is committed to protecting our children and our communities. Yesterday's arrest is another example of this commitment."

In August 1999, Escobar was arrested by the now defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). One month later, in September 1999, Escobar appeared before an independent Immigration Court Judge and was ordered released on bond pending the outcome of his removal proceedings. In July, 2003, the Immigration Judge ordered Escobar removed from this country. Following the dismissal of his appeal, Escobar became a fugitive. His case was referred to the ICE Fugitive Operations Team in September of 2004.

With his arrest yesterday, Escobar is being scheduled for removal and will shortly be deported back to Colombia, his country of citizenship. Escobar was a registered sex offender in the state of New York.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*